

# OrdnanceReports

News updates from around the world



April 23, 2003



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## Ground commander lauds land troops' success in Iraq

by Jim Garamone, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, April 23, 2003 – Coalition forces are nearing the end of combat operations, but the campaign will continue, the chief of coalition land forces said during an interview from Baghdad.

In a videoconferenced briefing with Pentagon reporters, Army Lt. Gen. David McKiernan said the ground campaign against the regime of Saddam Hussein is making a “blurred transition” from combat operations to post-hostilities operations.

He listed the three types of resistance coalition forces still face: regime pockets, paramilitary formations – including foreign fighters — and terrorist attacks.

He said the whole coalition military plan was characterized by the speed of operations, its lethality and its flexibility and precision. He praised the contributions of the British and Australian forces and said there are now 11 coalition nations in Iraq.

He said the coalition did so well in the campaign to topple Saddam because the U.S. military is more a joint organization than it has been in the past. “The ability and the coordination between air, maritime, ground, special operating forces has been to a degree that I – in over 30 years – never witnessed before,” he said. “It’s never perfect; no military operation is perfect, but jointness has been huge in this campaign.”

He said the U.S. emphasis on joint training and doctrine over the last decade “paid off in spades in this military operation.”

McKiernan said the quality of the troops was the key to victory. “The battles that have been won by the ground component have been won by individual soldiers and Marines and small-unit tactical skill,” he said. “It has been a tough fight. We have suffered more than 600 casualties, and we have not suffered the last casualty.”

The general stated that the intent of the campaign was to place continuous pressure on the regime of Saddam Hussein. “My mission was to remove that regime from power,” he said. His command has another mission: searching for and disarming the Hussein regime’s weapons of mass destruction.

The ground campaign consisted of high-tempo continuous

operations, McKiernan said. He said the battle plan had many options “but always remained focused on the enemy.”

“We have applied on a continuous basis the power of the air component, the land component, the maritime component, our special operating forces and information operations,” he said.

McKiernan said he was the commander who “accepted some risk” in the length of the supply line through southern Iraq. “Most of our combat vehicles have driven in excess of a thousand miles to date,” he said. “They have not run out of fuel. Our maintenance status is in good shape. Our logistics has been sustained and will continue to be sustained.”

The general also refuted armchair critics’ complaints that there was an operational pause during the campaign. “There was never a day, there was never a moment where there was not continuous pressure put on the regime of Saddam by one of those components — air, ground, maritime, Special Forces and so on,” he said.

Coalition forces are still moving into Iraqi cities and villages to establish control. He said elements of the 101st Airborne Division are moving into Mosul. Other portions of the U.S. 5th Corps are heading toward the western part of Iraq. “We’re continuing to secure Baghdad, Tikrit and other urban areas,” he said.

But at the same time, coalition forces are transitioning to a focus on civil/military operations and an effort “to restore basic services to the Iraqi people at or better than their pre-war standards.”

Land forces commanders have the authority to work with local Iraqis to get them back to work and back in control of their destiny, McKiernan noted. “I am teaming very hard with Jay Garner and the Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance as together we try to bring civil administration back on line in Iraq,” he said.

The general addressed criticism that his forces didn’t do enough to protect Iraqi museums and offices when they first went into Baghdad. “We had to fight our way into Baghdad,” he pointed out. He said he wanted coalition forces in the city before Saddam Hussein could regroup his forces and set up an urban defense of the city.

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## Saddam still in Iraq - UK minister

UMM QASR, Iraq (CNN) —Britain's defense minister said Wednesday he believed Iraq's former president Saddam Hussein was probably still alive and hiding in Iraq, two weeks after Baghdad fell to U.S.-led forces.

In an interview with British Forces Broadcast Services while in southern Iraq, Geoff Hoon said there were no conclusive reports about the fate of Iraq's dictator. The United States says it does not know where Saddam is, or even whether he is still alive.

"In the end we don't know," he said. "It is still my best judgment that he is (in Iraq). Obviously as each day goes by, as we continue to search those places where he might be hiding, we have to keep an

open mind. But it is still my best judgment."

Hoon, the most senior coalition official to visit Iraq since the war began on March 20, said the U.S.-led coalition was making strong progress in finding those officials who were responsible for "the appalling regime here."

The search goes on for those people — "above all else Saddam Hussein — but we are seeing day by day successes as we capture more of those who are to blame and we go on with that effort," he said.

Coalition forces have arrested eight Iraqi leaders on its "most wanted list" of Saddam allies and Baath Party loyalists.

Several rumors have circulated in the past month about Saddam's fate: that he was killed in the first U.S. bombing on March 20, that he died in a second air strike aimed directly at him or that he was being sheltered in Syria.

Abu Dhabi TV broadcast a videotape last Friday showing a man said to be deposed Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein greeting supporters in Baghdad on April 9 — the day the capital fell — as well as an audiotaped message calling on Iraqis to battle the U.S.-led forces that control most of Iraq.

Hoon repeated Wednesday that he was not disappointed by the coalition's failure to find any weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

"We always knew it would take time to find weapons that have been deliberately hidden by the regime," the UK's Press Association quoted him as saying.

## Murderer killed in coalition raid in Kandahar Province

by Jim Garamone, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, April 23, 2003 – Coalition forces in Afghanistan believe they killed the man who murdered a Salvadoran Red Cross worker March 27, officials at Combined Joint Task Force 180 said today.

The action occurred April 21 in Kandahar province in the southern part of the country. Coalition forces worked with officials of the Islamic Transitional Government of Afghanistan to develop the intelligence and coordinate the attack.

During the raid, special operations forces killed the unidentified assassin after he fired on the forces. The team detained seven of his accomplices.

Ricardo Munguia, the worker, was an engineer specializing in water projects. He was shot on a road in southern Helmand province. Munguia was the first humanitarian worker killed since the Taliban fell.

A coalition assault team built around an 82nd Airborne Division unit took intelligence gleaned from the raid and conducted an air assault search-and-seizure mission north of Kandahar yesterday.

Between 150 and 200 personnel participated in the raid. Four Black Hawk helicopters lifted the group to the vicinity of Shurkay. The unit detained another seven personnel and seized a cache of ammunition that included mortar rounds, rocket-propelled grenades and boxes of various small-arms rounds.

Other action included the firebase near Shkin coming under suspected rocket attack April 22. Two Air Force A-10 Thunderbolt IIs responded to coalition force request for close-air support. They did not drop any ordnance.

In further action, an Afghan military command post southeast of Khowst came under attack from anti-coalition forces. Again, commanders requested close-air support and enemy forces broke contact when A-10s arrived.

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*A local Iraqi man chants during a standoff with U.S. Marines, Wednesday, April 23, 2003, in Kut, 160 kms. (100 miles) south of Baghdad. Dozens of protesters blocked U.S. Marines trying to cross the main bridge over the Tigris River Wednesday in a more than four-hour standoff sparked by the detentions of two local men by U.S. forces. (AP Photo/Wally Santana)*

# Army's logistics operations remain too slow, Wynne says

by Nick Jonson, Aerospace Daily

RICHMOND, Va. - While praising the past efforts of Army logisticians, Michael Wynne, the deputy undersecretary of defense for acquisition, technology, and logistics, said the Army's logistical operations remain too "reactive."

Wynne, speaking at the Association of the U.S. Army's 2003 logistics symposium here, said only 20 percent of any given combat unit is engaged in fighting and the rest is engaged in support functions.

"The Army has done great things in these recent weeks, but it has far to go," he said. "Unless we embrace a new paradigm, we will still be depending on the warfighter to tell us what they need, and trying to supply it as fast as we can. Reactive logistics ... will never be able to keep up with warfare as we now know it."

Wynne said that in a legacy heavy brigade combat team, about 1,300 of its 3,600 soldiers serve in support functions. Nearly 400 of its 1,100 vehicles perform logistics functions. Deploying the brigade takes more than 700 C-17 sortie equivalents, which can move about 21,000 tons each.

That compares with only 235 C-17 sorties need to deploy a brigade-size unit of action of the Future Combat Systems (FCS), he said. Only 200 of the brigade's 900 vehicles, and 530 of the brigade's 2,500 soldiers, will serve in support functions, he said. Plans call for the brigade to be deployed in 967 hours and have enough supplies for seven days.

"How are we going to get from here to there? I want ultra reliability. I want vastly increased fuel economy. And I want throw-away maintenance, and I want you to plan your own lift," Wynne said.

Systems that appear promising include the Australian fast sea-lift catamaran, which is going through operational testing. Micro-electromechanical systems (MEMS) would allow systems within a given platform to be monitored, including engines, tires, fuel, and water.

"Instead of a logistician sitting in the rear waiting for [a resupply call], he would be able to look at his monitor and notice that the tires of a combat vehicle are being worn down faster than anticipated," he said. "He could then have a resupply vehicle to replace the tires on the road to the combat unit before the commander even realizes he needs it."

Other promising systems, Wynne said, include the water harvesting system being developed by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). The system could harvest water from any available source, eliminating up to 50 percent of the water logistics for a 10,000-man force, Wynne said. The system could produce up to 3.5 quarts a day for each soldier.

Other systems include hybrid-electric combat vehicles and soft conformal batteries that could be shaped to fit into the recesses of a variety of systems. The batteries would have a lifetime indicator to show their remaining strength, he said.

Other systems the Army is pursuing include the Future Tactical Truck System (FTTS), which will be the primary all-wheel vehicle in the Army's FCS, said Maj. Gen. Terry Juskowiak, commander of the Army's combined arms support command.

The truck will be equipped with an intelligent load/material handling system that can load and offload modular platforms from an aircraft and deliver it directly to the brigade, he said.



**CONVOY**— A  
convoy of U.S. Army  
tanks and armored  
vehicles kick up dust  
as they cross the  
flight line at  
Baghdad  
International  
Airport, the primary  
base of operations  
for U.S. troops, cargo  
and humanitarian  
airlift for Operation  
Iraqi Freedom. U.S.  
Air Force photo by  
Staff Sgt. Cherie A.  
Thurlby



# Marines carry away memories of Iraqis

TIKRIT, Iraq (AP) - They came to Iraq driven by a desire to fight terrorism, protect their homes and families from weapons of mass destruction, or simply to "shoot bad guys."

But as the U.S. Marines begin pulling south, handing control over to the Army, many say their lasting memory will be the jubilant people who came running out to thank them as they rolled through the adobe villages - many unchanged since biblical times - and the crumbling streets of Saddam Hussein's neglected cities.

"It has been a humbling experience," said Capt. Lauren Edwards, 27, of Smiths Grove, Ky., a member of the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing. "We'll go back to our trucks and our Harleys, democracy and capitalism. ... I don't think you could even describe to anyone how people live here."



*United States Marines Lt. Dave Fleming with Klio Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines exchange greetings with two Iraqi women while out patrolling a neighborhood in Baghdad on Sunday, April 13, 2003. As the U.S. Marines begin pulling south, handing control of Baghdad over to the Army, many say their lasting memory will be the jubilant people who came running out to thank them as they rolled through the adobe villages \_ many unchanged since biblical times \_ and the crumbling streets of Saddam Hussein's neglected cities. (AP Photo/Julie Jacobson)*

Many were excited about the chance to do what they had always trained for - to kill the enemy. But thoughts of glory quickly receded once they heard bullets for the first time or felt the ground shake from artillery.

"I just want to make it home to my family," said Capt. Kevin Digman, 30, after narrowly evading an artillery round aimed at his

helicopter and coming under machine gun fire as he lifted wounded Iraqi prisoners and civilians to safety.

"I honestly don't care about medals," said the helicopter pilot from Muncie, Ind.

Faced with paramilitary fighters dressed as civilians, who stood behind women and children to fire shots at passing U.S. convoys, Marines at times found it hard not to direct their rage at all Iraqis.

When Staff Sgt. Dave Gravley, 34, first crossed into Iraq, all he wanted to do was "blow stuff up."

"I thought they were all enemies," said the ordnance-disposal worker from Colleyville, Texas.

But when he saw Iraqis run out of their homes to offer Marines flowers and cigarettes, he softened. On the outskirts of Baghdad, large parts of which were destroyed by U.S. bombs, his convoy passed a girl carrying a hand-drawn picture of the American flag.

"That was it for me," he said.

"It really hit me when we were driving by, seeing all these people waving. ... This is their Independence Day of sorts," said Cpl. Joe Moore, a 28-year-old sniper from Grand Blanc, Mich. "It's a good feeling."

To be sure, not all Iraqis have welcomed U.S. forces. At demonstrations around the country, crowds have denounced both Saddam and the United States, with some Iraqis demanding that U.S. troops go home.

Yet Marines said they were deeply moved by welcoming faces and kind gestures.

"Where I'm from, we had dictators, and I know what they do," said Capt. Nebyou Yonas, a 29-year-old helicopter transport pilot who arrived in Dallas as a child from Ethiopia. "Every time I fly by, I see villagers' faces and I'm at home. I see my mother's face, my aunt's face and others in their faces."

1st Sgt. Horst Jejjoni, 38, was driven by a desire to see the land his parents left behind when they emigrated from Iraq before he was born.

"I have always been curious about what it would be like here. I heard stories about how beautiful the people are, how friendly, how rich this area is in culture," said the Marine from San Diego, sitting on the steps of one of Saddam's opulent palaces in the dictator's hometown, Tikrit. "It's been everything I expected and more."

Before coming here, Jejjoni wondered whether Saddam was really as terrible as he was reputed to be. But as he passed Bedouins leading herds of camel across the desert, and drank tea with villagers whose mud houses stood in sharp contrast to the marble-lined rooms, flashy cars and indoor swimming pools of Saddam's elite, those doubts faded away.

"This liberation is dear to my heart, because now I know that when I go back home, I can send my mom back to the village where she grew up and hasn't seen in 43 years," he said.

Marines are not oblivious to the United States' strategic interests in the region, or questions by some Iraqis about their motives in the oil-producing country. But many take pride in toppling Saddam's regime.

"Obviously there are always ulterior motives," said Capt. Ted Batzel, 30, from Harford, Pa., who pilots Cobra attack helicopters. "Bottom line - whatever reasons people think we did this for - I think we helped people."

# U.S. general: Iraq attitude will change

IRBIL, Iraq (AP) - Jay Garner, the retired U.S. general overseeing Iraq's reconstruction, acknowledged widespread discontent among Iraqis because of the postwar chaos, but predicted: "In a very short order you'll see a change in the attitudes."

"I think things have gone incredibly fast and I think they've gone a lot better than has been portrayed, so I have a good feeling about this," he said on the second day of a visit to northern Iraq's Kurdish region.

Garner's humanitarian work with the Kurds has made him widely respected among them, and his welcome has been far warmer than it was in Baghdad, where he arrived on Monday to begin full-scale establishment of his Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance.

In 1991, he directed a U.S. military mission to protect hundreds of thousands of Kurds who fled their homes when Saddam Hussein put down an uprising following the 1991 Gulf War.

Garner acknowledged that security in Iraq has yet to be fully established and that discontent among Iraqis is high in the chaotic aftermath of Saddam's fall, with looters pillaging cities and utilities and municipal services barely working, if at all.

Asked how soon life could return to a semblance of normalcy, Garner said, "Everything has to be done in a secure environment and ... I think security is getting better every day."

Anti-American demonstrations have been frequent in Baghdad and the south, but Garner said he believes those passions will cool.

"The majority of people realize we are only going to stay here long enough to start a democratic government for them, we're only going to stay here long enough to get their economy going ... to get their oil flowing back to the people and the revenue back to the people," he said.

In Irbil, the administrative capital of the Kurdish region, Garner was met by Massoud Barzani, leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party, one of the two main groups in Kurdish Iraq that have often been at odds. A day earlier, Garner visited Sulaymaniyah, the center of support for the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan and its leader Jalal Talabani.

On Tuesday, Garner praised the Kurds' efforts to establish democracy as a model for all of Iraq. The Kurds formed a regional government in 1991 under the protection of U.S. jets patrolling northern Iraq's no-fly zone.

He skirted discussions of Kurdish desires for independence - a sensitive issue for neighboring Turkey, which fears a possible



*Retired US Lt Gen. Jay Garner, shakes hands with an Iraqi Kurdish student in Irbil, which is controlled by the Kurdistan Democratic Party KDP, on Wednesday, April, 23, 2003. The 64-year-old Garner, who is charged with leading efforts to reconstruct Iraq, said the situation in the country is improving faster than he had expected. (AP Photo/Hasan Sarbakhshian/Pool)*

uprising of its own Kurds - and Talabani said that the Kurds, for now, aspired to be part of a democratic Iraq.

Talabani said a commission would be established to mediate disputes between Arabs and Kurds who were displaced from their homes under Saddam.



*A gas mask left behind by Iraqi soldiers lies on the ground as US soldiers of the 4th Infantry Division move into the headquarters of the 5th Corps of the Iraqi army in Mosul, Iraq, Wednesday April 23, 2003. (AP Photo/Saurabh Das)*



# Iraqis buying AK-47s for self-defense

by Ellen Knickmeyer

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - Gunshots heralded what the men in the New Baghdad market were selling Wednesday, among the oranges and the eggs - AK-47s, Beretta submachine guns and Browning 9mms, for as little as \$10.

Massive arms caches abandoned by Iraqi forces and cleaned out by scavengers have put automatic weapons in the hands of anyone who covets one, endangering any return to peace and stability in Iraq. Even widows and other peaceful Iraqis are buying AK-47s for self-defense.

"Every Iraqi I'd estimate now has two or three guns. And we will use these guns against Britons and Americans, if they do not go out of Iraq," car mechanic Dhiab Hamad Khaleifa said Wednesday.

He spoke along a dusty roadside at a Kalashnikov market outside Baghdad - an impromptu affair of pickup trucks and men waving assault rifles. Potential customers blasted rounds into the air to test the wares.

The Iraqi military, once the Mideast's largest, simply abandoned its arsenal when officers and other soldiers slipped away ahead of U.S. forces. Looters were quick to appropriate mortars, 50-caliber machine guns, rocket-propelled grenades and guns from abandoned bunkers, trenches and depots.

Policing all those weapons or trying to round them up through amnesty programs could be difficult.



*South Korean soldiers patrol along the wire-fence at the South's area near the demilitarized zone between the two Koreas, in Paju city, 50 kilometers (31 miles) north of Seoul, Wednesday, April 23, 2003. Negotiators from the United States, China and North Korea were scheduled to meet in Beijing, China, for three days starting Wednesday for talks aimed at finding a resolution to the North's suspected efforts to build nuclear arms. (AP Photo/ Yun Jai-hyoung)*

When a nationwide financial scandal drained the savings of Albanians in 1997, enraged citizens there raided army depots and stole an estimated 550,000 weapons, 839 million rounds of ammunition and millions of explosive devices. Six years later, many of those weapons remain unaccounted for, and as many as 150,000 weapons are believed in the hands of ethnic Albanian militants fighting in neighboring Kosovo and Macedonia.

When the Marines entered Baghdad this month, Kalashnikov rifles literally littered the roadsides.

Marines found schools and hospitals stacked to their ceilings with mortar rounds and grenades. Officials of Saddam Hussein's regime had placed the caches in civilian sites to fend off American attacks.

Stockpiles left in populated areas often proved too big for U.S. forces to blow up safely. In many cases, stretched-thin U.S. forces had to leave them.

"Our blood and our money were taken by Saddam, and now we're reclaiming them," said one seller at the roadside market, nine miles west of Baghdad.

An AK-47 in each hand, he hoisted one high, and pointed one down. "Because our money paid for these guns."

Around him, a vendor held aloft a green metal ammo box printed with U.S. military markings. Shoppers and sellers fired rounds. For the benefit of Western reporters, buyers and vendors screamed vows to use the weapons against U.S. soldiers if they stay in Iraq too long.

The scene was the same at bustling New Baghdad market in the center of the Iraqi capital.

Gun merchants took up business on the sidewalks there two weeks ago. Fearful women shopping for their families have abandoned the crowded blocks of stalls and shops - leaving them to ruffraff hawking TVs and sports clothes at deep discounts, stolen in the mob pillaging that followed the fall of Baghdad.

Saddam helped broaden trade in guns and other pillaged goods in October when he emptied prisons nationwide - freeing common criminals as well as political detainees.

At the Baghdad market, less than \$10 bought a stolen license plate and registration papers for a government vehicle - leaving the buyer the task of locating the vehicle and making away with it.

Men fired into the air with Brownings, and teenage boys jabbed jagged bayonets a fistful at a time to demonstrate their killing effectiveness.

With so many arms on the market, homeowners say they have no choice but to buy weapons. Nightly, Baghdad resounds with duets of AK-47s - families, letting off bursts of automatic weapons to let

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# Iraq war coverage spurs interest in enlistment

by Edward Colimore, Philadelphia Inquirer Staff Writer

The media's coverage of the war in Iraq produced powerful images of America's military successes - and some great recruiting commercials.

Twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

The quick victory - and unforgettable pictures of the troops and Iraqis toppling a statue of Saddam Hussein - are helping recruiters fill the ranks with more qualified soldiers.

Across the country, recruiting stations are getting more visits and more phone calls, and the services' Web sites are receiving more hits.

The military's conduct of the war "was one of the reasons I decided to join," Randi Barnett, an 18-year-old Levittown resident and former Neshaminy High School student, said yesterday during a visit to an Army recruiting station in Levittown.

"I want to help out... I'm also looking at it as a career."

Army Capt. Tony Barnett, commander of the North Philadelphia Recruiting Company and no relation to the recruit, said he anticipated more traffic. His company oversees recruiting in parts of the city and suburbs.

"I think more people are interested because of our success, because of the positive impression they got from the embedded reporters and the fact that we had so few casualties," he said.

## Iraqis buying AK-47s for self-defense continued

would-be robbers know they, too, are armed. Widows and elderly retirees privately admit to toting the weapons.

"It's dangerous," said Mosaab Abdul-Wohab, son of an imam at a large northwest Baghdad mosque. He shakes his head at the thought of a city full of stirred-up young men and guns.

Abdul-Wohab's Sunni Muslim mosque, like many across the city, fully recognizes the threat. With neither Iraqi police nor American soldiers yet filling the role, religious communities have stepped in to do their own policing.

Mosque leaders enlist young male worshippers to gather the abandoned Iraqi arms out of schools and houses. "They worked for days, until their backs ached," said Abdul-Wohab, a doctor in general practice.

Religious leaders then called upon U.S. soldier to dispose safely of the weapons.

"We were promised by the American forces they will come and take all the weapons ... to collect them and destroy them," Abdul-Wohab said. "But they didn't come. They didn't keep their promise."

Maj. Dave Griesmer, a spokesman for Marine Corps recruiting at Quantico, Va., also has seen a "groundswell" and "lots of anecdotal evidence that world events lead to more interest."

That interest in the military has created a recruiter's market, allowing the services to pick the best-qualified candidates from a larger pool. Recruiters generally target men and women ages 18 to 25 (35 is the upper limit) who pass aptitude tests and have no criminal record.

"The bottom line is that we are bringing in the right number of qualified men and women for service," said Lt. Bill Davis, a spokesman for the national Navy Recruiting Command in Millington, Tenn. "We have been able to raise the bar for quality."

Griesmer and other military officials said each branch had limits on the number of troops it could recruit.

The Marine Corps can recruit 38,914 this fiscal year, which will end Sept. 30, and it has signed up more than half that number.

"There's only a certain number of applicants we need," Griesmer said. "When people come in and find out it's a commitment, that's when you find out if these are momentary feelings of patriotism."

In the first quarter of fiscal 2003, the military services met 99 percent of the recruiting goals, the Pentagon said.

All of the services except the Army National Guard and Army Reserve achieved or exceeded targeted numbers. The Army Reserve signed up 98 percent of its goal (short 182 soldiers) and the Guard 86 percent (short 2,107).

The services reached their goals the last two fiscal years and are expected to meet them again this year.

Davis said the Navy did not have to recruit as many sailors primarily because it was retaining more of them. It lowered its recruiting goal from 48,000 for this fiscal year to 41,772.

"Some people stay because of the economy and unemployment," Davis said. "The Navy doesn't seem so bad. Some stay to serve their country and be part of something bigger than themselves. And others stay because of the education opportunities, training and benefits."

The Army has been running ahead of recruiting goals each month this year, said Douglas Smith, a spokesman for the Army Recruiting Command in Fort Knox, Ky. It wanted to recruit 33,960 by the end of March and enlisted 34,222.

Many of the new faces in the military are young women. Barnett, the Army recruiter, said he believed that the rescue of Army POW Jessica Lynch had caused more women to focus on the possibility of a military life.

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# Depleted uranium weapon risks mulled

DENVER, Colorado (AP) —As soon as it's safe, the United Nations and international scientists plan to fan out over Iraq's smoking battlegrounds to investigate whether the leftovers of U.S. firepower pose serious health or environmental threats.

Thousands of rounds containing tons of depleted uranium were fired in Iraq over the past four weeks. Fragments of the armor-piercing munitions now litter the valleys and neighborhoods between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. That's where most of the combat occurred and where most of Iraq's 24 million people live.

Wounded fighters and civilians also may carry depleted uranium shrapnel in their bodies.

Many medical studies have failed to show a direct link between DU exposure and human disease, though a study of rats linked intramuscular fragments with increased cancer risk. Test-tube experiments also suggest DU may trigger potentially dangerous changes in cells.

The munitions are conventional and do not generate a nuclear blast. Depleted uranium, a very dense metal fashioned from low-level radioactive waste, allows them to easily pierce armor and buildings that would deflect other projectiles.

U.S. defense officials vigorously defend the decisive battlefield advantage that the super-hard metal provides and says the munitions do not create pollution or health hazards. Tanks, Bradley fighting vehicles and A-10 attack jets all fire depleted uranium rounds. Some missiles also contain the material.

"There's going to be no impact on the health of people in the environment or people who were there at the time," said Dr. Michael Kilpatrick, a top Pentagon health official.

"You would really have to have a large internalized dose," Kilpatrick said. "You are not going to get that with casual exposure."

However, experts differ as to what qualifies as casual exposure.

Some worry that it could affect civilian populations — especially children — if it enters groundwater used for drinking water and irrigation.

"The soil around the impact sites of depleted uranium penetrators might be heavily contaminated," said Brian Spratt, chair of the depleted uranium committee of the Royal Society, England's scientific academy. "We recommend the fragments should be removed."

Some experiments suggest DU may cause serious illness even if tiny particles are inhaled or ingested.

Critics complain that studies so far have not been nearly large or long enough to conclude the munitions pose no long-term risks.

"Depleted uranium is toxic and carcinogenic and it may well be associated with elevated rates of birth defects in babies born to those exposed to it," said McDermott, a Washington state congressman who is also a physician.

Before the current war, Iraqi doctors were blaming high rates of cancer and birth defects in Basra and other southern cities on U.S. munitions fired 12 years ago — when fighting was concentrated along the southern border with Kuwait. Iraqi officials claim their number of cancer patients has risen 50 percent in 10 years, although complete medical surveys have not been conducted.

Some U.S. veterans also blame certain mysterious symptoms of Gulf War Syndrome — illnesses tens of thousands of American veterans reported suffering after returning from the 1991 Gulf War — on DU exposure.

To many, the issue could mushroom into a controversy similar to that involving Agent Orange spraying during the Vietnam War. Exposure to the herbicide has caused catastrophic health problems even to generations born after the war.

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## Iraq war coverage spurs interest in enlistment continued

"We have seen female applicants who were very much interested in being part of the Army," he said.

Army First Sgt. Anthony Isaac, a recruiter in Barnett's command who works in Levittown, said his station was "seeing more women."

"Women want to be equal and not rely on others to do things for them," he said.

While media coverage of the war has boosted interest in joining up, "there's a flip side to the reporting on the war," said Davis, the Navy spokesman. "We hear from some of the recruiting stations that there is a concern from parents about their children going into the military."

"This is what we do, and some moms and dads are not sure if they want their sons and daughters doing it. But that does not play a

significant role in recruiting."

Griesmer, the Marine spokesman, said the war coverage "may work both ways, but we succeed because we have a good product."

"The possibility of death raises the cost for some people - and that may be too much, but others want to be part of this. They want to be part of the military and help people."

Some prospective recruits, such as William Joseph, 18, of Browns Mills in Burlington County, also see the service as a possible career.

"I don't know what I want to do," said Joseph, a Pemberton High School student who was applying at the Air Force recruiting office in Mount Holly. "But this is another job opportunity for the rest of my life."



## **Depleted uranium weapon risks mulled continued**

"The fact that most of the fighting in Iraq has been in population centers is of great worry to me," said geochemist Vala Ragnarsdottir of the University of Bristol in England. Ragnarsdottir was one of 17 scientists from five European nations who conducted DU field assessments for the U.N. in the Balkans in 2000.

That investigation, the first of its kind, found no direct link between DU munitions and current disease rates in Serbia, Kosovo and Montenegro. However, the study was limited to 11 combat sites. About 12 metric tons of depleted uranium ordnance was used in the Balkans; that compares with 300 metric tons during the 1991 Persian Gulf War, and far more in the current campaign.

In Iraq, Ragnarsdottir said, "many hard targets were hit and therefore DU dust was produced, which still could be blowing around."

"I think that DU water pollution is likely to occur with time," she said.

The U.N. inquiry would sample DU residues in soil, air, water and vegetation throughout the battle theater, as well as measure for radiation hotspots.

Investigators will need information from the Pentagon to calculate how much DU ordinance was used and the coordinates of specific Iraqi targets.

"An early study in Iraq could either lay these fears to rest or confirm there are potential risks which then could be addressed," said Klaus Toepfer, executive director of the U.N. Environmental Program, which will manage the investigation.

Depleted uranium is a byproduct of the industrial process in national weapons labs that enriches the energy content of nuclear fuel rods and warheads by adding more of the fissionable U-235 isotope. What's left is a concentrated metal waste that is about twice as dense as lead, but 40 percent less radioactive than uranium in its natural form.

A DU-hardened projectile can bore straight through an enemy tank. DU shrapnel also ignites, engulfing the target in fire.

What happens then has been studied by several government labs and international agencies with varying conclusions.

The Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute in Maryland and other labs suggest that DU fragments embedded in the muscle of laboratory rats cause cancerous tumors.

But do the animal trials really mimic battlefield exposures? Studies of human patients and health records by the World Health Organization and others found no direct link to cancer rates and other illnesses.

Studies by the RAND Corp. and others suggest the radiation danger from handling the munitions is low.

A 2002 study by the Royal Society concluded that most battlefield

soldiers won't be at risk. But dangerous vapors are generated when the weapons are fired or explode. If the particles are inhaled or ingested, they might settle in the kidneys and skeleton of some soldiers, or raise the risk of lung cancer.

But at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Baltimore, more than 500 urine samples from veterans concerned about DU exposure were evaluated by toxicologists. The medical center reported 20 samples showed elevated uranium levels, but those could be attributed to natural uranium in food and water.

Urine provided by patients carrying DU shrapnel in their bodies from friendly fire during the Gulf War also showed elevated uranium levels, but the higher levels were not tied to disease.

DU critics complain those studies examined fewer than 100 veterans of the 1991 conflict.

"The military's policy is don't look, don't find," said Dan Fahey, a U.S. Navy veteran in the Persian Gulf who now works for a San Francisco environmental group.

Fahey said: "If they don't do proper studies of veterans, they can say there is no evidence of adverse health effects."

## **Saddam still in Iraq - UK minister continued**

"We were well aware all through the U.N. inspections process that very determined efforts had been taken by the regime to dismantle weapons to hide them.

"It's a huge country and it can't be surprising that it takes time, it's not a detective game.

"What we anticipate happening now is that as more and more former elements of the regime start talking to us and explaining where these weapons are hidden, then we will find them."

Meanwhile Wednesday, Britain's defense ministry announced that Admiral Sir Michael Boyce is to retire from the post of Chief of Defence Staff next week.

Admiral Boyce, 60, who was made Chief of Defence Staff in February 2001, won a reputation for outspoken remarks, including publicly voicing "extreme concern" at the impact of the firefighters' strike on military effectiveness.

Britain's former Chief of the General Staff General Sir Michael Walker will take over the position on Friday, May 2.

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**VIP DELIVERS** — Two soldiers hold a banner, thanking troops for their efforts during Operation Iraqi Freedom, from the people of Minnesota, delivered by U.S. Representative Gil Gutknecht during his visit to the wounded and tour of the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, where many of the wounded are treated before returning to the United States. Gutknecht, along with six other members of Congress toured the hospital 15 April 2003. U.S. Air Force Photo by Tech Sgt. Maria L. Taylor

### Ground commander lauds land troops' success in Iraq continued

The speed of the campaign was key to preventing an urban combat quagmire. "I can tell you from being here that those lead formations, both Marine and Army, that maneuvered into Baghdad, first of all, were killing bad guys, and secondly, were protecting Iraqi people," he said.

"And so if some of the facilities became subject to looting over that period of time by Iraqis, I will tell you that our priority was to fight the enemy and to protect Iraqi people."

McKiernan said the coalition has been decisive in the campaign to date because of its military capability, training, leadership and

equipment. He said those qualities may make people think it was an easy campaign.

"I get very upset when I hear anybody say that this was so easy," he said. "There are 600-plus Americans who are dead or wounded in the course of this conflict, and it wasn't easy for them.

"And anybody that was here and anybody that traveled with those formations, I don't think you'll find anybody that says it was an easy fight. So if I sound a little emotional, I apologize, but there is nothing in wartime that's easy for that formation or for that pilot or for that ship when they're in harm's way."

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Korea - 50 years ago this week, April 24-30

## Truce talks focus on trade of remaining POWs

by Jim Caldwell, TRADOC News Service

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, April 22, 2003) — As U.N. and communist forces continued to trade sick and wounded prisoners of war, they began talks to exchange remaining POWs, 50 years ago this week in Korea.

April 24-30, 1953 — Final preparations are being made to resume truce negotiations at Panmunjom April 26 as Operation Little Switch continues.

Now Lt. Gen. William K. Harrison, chief of the U.N. truce talks team, continues to be prepped over April 24-25 for resumption of truce by Gen. Mark Clark, U.N. supreme commander, and by government and military officials in the United States.

Harrison has already let his returning counterpart, North Korean Lt. Gen. Nam Il, know that since the communists have accepted the U.N. stand on prisoner exchanges when a truce is signed, the United Nations will not discuss new issues they bring up. All other original issues except the details of repatriating prisoners have been worked out.

Harrison tells the communist truce team if it does not bargain in good faith, the United Nations will call off the talks again.

State Department officials speculate that events in the Soviet Union have driven the Chinese and North Koreans back to truce talks. After Stalin's death, the new Kremlin leadership is more preoccupied with consolidating power than in the Korean War.

Harrison has told the communists that they can choose either of the U.N. plans submitted earlier for repatriating prisoners. The United Nation's choice of neutral country to take control of the Chinese and North Korean prisoners for a 60-day explaining period is Switzerland. He has made it plain that the United Nations will not consider a communist-dominated country to be neutral.

When the truce talks resume April 26, only Harrison and Rear Admiral John C. Daniel have experience at negotiating with the communists. The three new members of the U.N. team are Republic of Korea Maj. Gen. Choi Duk Shin; Brig. Gen. Edgar E. Glenn, U.S. Air Force; and U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Ralph M. Osborne.

Although there are new faces in Nam's group, they are officers who handled staff-level negotiations and since have been promoted to generals.

Nam presents the communists' positions as talks resume. They include exchanging all prisoners except those who do not want to be exchanged within two months. During the third month the prisoners who don't want to be repatriated will be sent to a neutral country. The communists will then have six months in which to explain to them why they should go home. A political conference will decide what to do with those who still refuse to go home at the end of six months.

Harrison immediately rejects the proposals. He says there is no need to subject the prisoners to six months of persuasion; 60 days is plenty of time. The mutually acceptable neutral country can assume control of the prisoners in South Korea.

Nam responds quickly, rejecting Switzerland as the neutral country and says six months is needed to explain to the prisoners why they should go home and to remove their fears about going home, since they are a result of their long captivity.

During the next two days neither side gives. On April 29 the communists say the neutral country must be Asian, but go no further on that point. Nam also says that since the U.N. Command feels six months is too long, they can discuss a length of time for the explaining both parties can accept.

Harrison wants to get the Reds to name a country they want, so he tells them April 30 the United Nations can release prisoners who want to stay in South Korea, similar to releases of large numbers of prisoners by the communists early in the war. While the United Nations does not plan to release any of the POWs, Harrison's remark is intended to make the communists aware of one consequence if talks bog down again.

April 24-29 — U.S. and South Korean servicemen released in Operation Little Switch tell reporters April 24-26 about more prisoner deaths in Red prison camps. The deaths were caused by communist brutality, lack of medical care, diseases and exposure to winter weather since 1950.

While GIs and ROK soldiers talk freely about conditions in North Korean prison camps, released Commonwealth troops aren't allowed to talk to reporters. That causes a protest by British and American newsmen. On April 25 Lt. Gen. Harry Wells, Commonwealth Division commander, told reporters that his soldiers did not have similar tales.

The general makes the statement two days after Rt. Rev. Alfred Cecil Cooper, 70, who was freed from communist captivity after the Soviets interceded, reported in London that 96 civilians died in a forced march near the Yalu River in October 1950. Cooper, who took part in the march, said most of the deaths were among elderly people, women and children. The civilians were captured in the communists' invasion of South Korea.

April 26 — The Air Force reports April 26 that only one MiG-15 has been shot down in the past seven days. Enemy groundfire downs two allied planes during the week.

Navy fliers pound areas around Tanchun and Sopo in northeast North Korea which the enemy use to build up their troop strength.

April 29 — The Defense Department reports that the number of American casualties as of April 24 was 134,410, which includes 23,869 dead.

A plane lands in San Francisco carrying 35 Americans freed in Little Switch. They are the first to return home.





*U.S. soldiers stand guard at their post of the Ministry of Oil in Baghdad, April 23, 2003. Oil flowed from Iraq's southern oilfields for the first time since the country was invaded by U.S.-led forces last month, a U.S. military spokesman said. Reuters photo.*



*Col. Michael S. Linnington, commander, 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, chairs a "town hall" meeting with 60 members of Baghdad neighborhoods Saturday. (photo by Pfc. James Matise)*



*A tank of the US 66th Armored Regiment, 1st Battalion of the 4th Infantry Division moves into the headquarters of the 5th Corps of the Iraqi army in Mosul, Iraq, Wednesday April 23, 2003. (AP Photo/Saurabh Das)*



*A US Marine checks money in front of a bank in Baghdad Thursday, April 17, 2003. Piles of U.S. currency, hundreds of millions of dollars so far, is being found in Iraq, even though the country has been under economic sanctions for nearly 13 years. Investigators are trying to track the money back to where it came from. (AP Photo/Dusan Vranic)*



*Iraqi Kurdish barber Hamid Shuokat, gives a haircut in his shop to U.S soldier Josh Wills ,30, from Tennessee , as other U.S soldiers Tim White, 32, from Illinois , right, and Robert Vatham, 38, from North Carolina, center, sit and look on in Irbil, on Wednesday, April 23, 2003. (AP Photo/Hasan Sarbakhshian)*